Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

UNCLAS STATE 270073

EO. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, NI (ADEDUJI, BETH SETTLEMYER)

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE BETH SETTLEMYER ADEDJUI

REFS: A) STATE 243822, B) LAGOS 11607

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES THOUGHTFUL EMBASSY REPLY TO
REFDEPTEL DESCRIBING DILEMMA OF AMCIT BETH SETTLEMYER
ADEDUJI. SHE HAS NOW DECIDED SEEK DIVORCE OR ANNULMENT
OF HER MARRIAGE TO MOSES OMOTAYO ADEDUJI. LAWYER HAS
ADVISED HER THAT PROOF OF ADEDUJI'S FIRST MARRIAGE BY
NIGERIAN COURT WOULD GIVE HER BASIS FOR ANNULMENT ON
GROUNDS OF POLYGAMY. BURDEN OF PROOF WOULD BE ON ADEDUJI
TO SHOW THAT SUCH MARRIAGE DISSOLVED BY COURT.

2. FYI: ACCORDING MS. SETTLEMYER, SHE WAS UNAWARE OF
ADEDUJI'S PREVIOUS MARRIAGE WHEN SHE MARRIED HIM ON
JANUARY 9, 1972. AT TIME OF SECTION 245 ACTION IN 1974,
HE OFFERED AFFIDAVIT BEARING THE THUMBPRINT OF HIS FATHER
IN ONDO AND SAYING THAT HE HAD BEEN MARRIED AND DIVORCED
IN ONDO ACCORDING TO TRADITIONAL CUSTOM. MS. SETTLEMYER
BELIEVES THIS DOCUMENT IS FRAUDULENT AND THAT ADEDUJI
ACTUALLY MARRIED IN LAGOS COURT WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE OF
FATHER. END FYI.
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3. MS. SETTLEMYER WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN DETERMINING IF THERE IS RECORD OF MARRIAGE BETWEEN MOSES OMOTAYO ADEDUJI AND FLORENCE FOLAKE AKINBODE PERFORMED BY A COURT IN LAGOS IN NOVEMBER (POSSIBLY OCTOBER OR DECEMBER) 1967. MS. SETTLEMYER ADVISES SHE NO LONGER REQUIRES UTMOST DISCRETION, SO INQUIRY COULD BE FORTHRIGHT.

4. DEPARTMENT HAS ADVISED MS. SETTLEMYER THAT EMBASSIES CANNOT RPT CANNOT SEARCH MARRIAGE RECORDS ON BEHALF OF INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS. DEPARTMENT WOULD, HOWEVER, APPRE-CIATE EMBASSY ADVICE WHICH COULD BE PASSED TO MS. SETTLE-MYER ON WHAT STEPS SHE MIGHT TAKE, HOPEFULLY BY CORRES-PONDENCE AND WITHOUT ENGAGING LAWYER WHICH LIKELY TO BE TIME-CONSUMING AND EXPENSIVE PROCESS, TO OBTAIN RECORD OF MARRIAGE BETWEEN ADEDUJI AND AKINBODE.

ROBINSON

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